

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 57

November 2010

No. 9



## Calendar

|                 |   |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Fri., Oct. 22   | Pick up <i>Bugle</i> at PO; Film Society, <i>Rivers and Tides</i> , Town Hall: food, 7:15 pm; film, 8 pm  | Mon., Nov. 8    | Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm   |
| Sun., Oct. 24   | Black Market fund raiser for diabetes awareness, basketball court, 11 am–6 pm; Pumpkin carving, Penn Place tennis court, 1 pm (BYO pumpkin, tools; p 4) | Tues., Nov. 9   | Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm   |
| Mon., Oct. 25   | Last weekly pickup of yard waste; Council work session/public meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm (see Mayor's Letter, p 6)  | Fri., Nov. 12   | Film Society, <i>Millions</i> , Town Hall: food, 7:15; film, 8 pm (p 4)   |
| Wed., Oct. 27   | Citizens Assoc. meeting   | Sun., Nov. 14   | GIVES Soup and Bread Supper, Town Hall, 5–7 pm (see p 2)  |
| Thurs., Oct. 28 | Senior Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30 pm  | Wed., Nov. 17   | Knitting group, 7:30 pm; contact Kathy Benjamin for location  |
| Sat., Oct. 30   | Spooky Woods, Porcupine Woods, Penn Place, 7 pm (p 4)   | Thurs., Nov. 18 | Senior Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30 pm; Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm                            |
| Sun., Oct. 31   | Trick or Treat Night  | Fri., Nov. 19   | GPNS Art & Craft Fair Preview Party, Town Hall, 7–9 pm (see p 3), for school families, alumni, and neighbors    |
| Mon., Nov. 1    | Monthly yard-waste pickup   | Sat., Nov. 20   | GPNS Art & Craft Fair & Bake Sale, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm; Last weekly Farmers Market at Penn Place for the year |
| Wed., Nov. 3    | Nursery School parents meeting, Town Hall, 7 pm   | Sun., Nov. 21   | GPNS Art & Craft Fair & Bake Sale, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm  |
| Thurs., Nov. 4  | Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm  | Wed., Nov. 24   | Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm  |
| Fri., Nov. 5    | Deadline for submitting names for jobs list (see p 3)   | Thurs., Nov. 25 | Happy Thanksgiving! No trash collection; Town Office closed   |
| Sat., Nov. 6    | GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby, 9 am–1 pm; Coffee House, Town Hall  | Sat., Nov. 27   | Local Artists 2010 Arts & Crafts Show, Town Hall, 11 am–5 pm  |
| Sun., Nov. 7    | Tree Walk, 1 pm; assemble Penn Place (see Mayor's Letter, p 6)  |                 |   |

## Nancy Drew and the Mystery of the Tennis Court

Your reporter was intrigued, during the October meeting of the Town Council, to hear Ted Pratt refer to “unassessed brownfield” under the Cambria tennis court adjacent to the swimming pool. Ted was supporting Beth Irons’ proposal that, among other uses of a replenished contingency fund, the town spend \$8,000 for the land to be environmentally assessed because, Ted said, “we don’t know what’s under there.”

Ted’s use of the term *brownfield* (a new one on me), and the general question of what might lie beneath the court, lent a somewhat eerie feel to the meeting. It was held on an unseasonably warm evening, with crickets singing just outside the Town Hall door.

Jack Mandel, substituting for the Mayor, who was away on business, began by saying that

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the town has granted an easement to the sewer near the elementary school to the WSSC. He also announced that the town has sent a letter to Park and Planning, asking for various improvements to Wells Park, including making play equipment safer and replacing decayed timbers.

The painting of the Town Hall is moving nicely along, and gutters at Penn Place are gradually being installed.

Hans Wegner recently walked our streets to make sure the work done on them in the last three years is holding up. Things look pretty good, but of course parts of other streets are now deteriorating.

Chris Petito said that the Park and Open Spaces Committee met; the Wells Park letter was their work. He thanked Chuck Berry, who will put together a spreadsheet of various projects in various town parks. The Committee also wants to look into other town-owned public spaces—to see what shape they’re in and consider things we might want to do with them.

Beth Irons offered a Land Use Task Force update. They will be putting together a chart that will compare county building regulations with various proposals we’re considering here.

Now Hans proposed to transfer unallocated dollars to replenish the contingency fund I mentioned earlier. He moved that we transfer about \$50,000 to this fund, and this passed unanimously. Beth Irons subsequently proposed that we give \$20,000 to the Arboretum (repair of storm damage to Cambria trees), \$10,000 for legal fees involved in the community center acquisition, and \$8,000 for the evaluation of the mysterious tennis court.

Phil Schulp wondered if we could put off the tennis court business, and Ted reiterated his belief that we should probably pretty soon get an environmental assessment.

Beth’s motion passed unanimously.

The meeting concluded with the Town Administrator’s report. He reminded us that drain repairs on Shelley Court, and at Montrose/ Clermont, will be expensive.

Said Ted: “Our tax base is solid and grows, and there’s been a modest increase in property taxes, but we won’t, for now, be generating the sorts of revenues that we have in the past.”

Margaret Soltan

From the P.O.

The Post Office wishes to note the following recommended mailing dates for overseas military destinations for the holidays. The most economical postage (Parcel Post) must be shipped by November 12. Priority and First Class mail should be sent by December 4 to zip 093, and December 10 for all other APO/FPO addresses. Express mail military service can go as late at December 18.

GIVES Soup & Bread Supper

All are invited to the GIVES Soup and Bread Supper, which will be held at the Town Hall on Sunday, November 14, from 5 to 7 pm. For the past 37 years, GIVES (Garrett Park Intercommunity Voluntary Experiment in Sharing) has collected donations to help relieve hunger locally and internationally. The need to feed, clothe, and provide shelter and training for so many is at an all-time high in these difficult economic times.

In addition to enjoying the wonderful food, we’ll be introducing the new co-presidents of GIVES, Nancy Walz and Rana Koll-Mandel; thanking our treasurer, Karen Anderson, for her volunteer time and energy; and talking about what’s new for GIVES in the coming year. Also, Nathan Mishler, Community and Volunteer Coordinator for Thrive DC, will be on hand to speak briefly and answer any of your questions.

So please, tell your friends and neighbors, and RSVP by calling Nancy Walz no later than November 12. She will need to know what you plan to bring—either a soup *or* bread with butter, to share with 10 to 12 people. In addition, GIVES is again asking that all who attend bring a beverage to share and their own soup bowl and silverware. For anyone needing a ride to and from the event, please let Nancy know when you call.

Remember that 100 percent of all proceeds collected will benefit Thrive DC and the American Friends Service Committee. Hope to see you all on November 14!

Rana Koll-Mandel



The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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President: Chris Strong (Chris.s.strong@gmail.com)  
Co-Vice-Presidents: Todd Harris and Mario Grande  
Treasurer: Lara Hines  
Secretary: Leslie Bethke-Pope  
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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: [www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php). The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

# Town Administrator Notes

**Halloween Parade:** The Garrett Park Elementary School’s annual Halloween Parade will not be held in Garrett Park this year because of the ongoing school reconstruction project. The school is planning a smaller event at the Grosvenor Holding School (5701 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda) at 2 pm on October 29. This is where the Garrett Park Elementary School is located during the reconstruction. Please contact the school (301-571-6920) or the Town Office for more information.

**Leaf Removal:** Autumn is upon us, and the leaves are starting to fall. As before, Bethke Landscaping will be removing leaves for the town, starting the week of October 18 and continuing until the end of the year. Each street will be cleared once every week, as early in the week as possible (rain will delay collections). Leaves should be placed in rows along the curb. Please remove sticks, trash, and other debris that could damage the machinery. Please do not shred the leaves or put out grass clippings. If you have any problems, call the Town Office (301-933-7488).

**Trash Collection After Holidays:** The following holidays are observed by our trash contractor: New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. If a Monday is missed, recycling is collected

on Wednesday, trash is collected on Thursday, and yard waste will be collected on the next Monday. Missed Thursday trash will be collected on the following Monday.

**Yard Waste Removal:** Remember, November through February yard waste will be collected the first Monday of each month only. That dependable harbinger of spring, weekly collection, will resume in March.

**Children and Leaves:** Please warn your children not to play in the leaves piled along the street for removal. There is considerable risk of being hit by a car, even on Garrett Park’s quiet streets. If you are driving near a pile of leaves, treat it as you would a ball rolling into the street. Assume a child is nearby and likely to run into the street.

**FY 2010 Financial Statements:** The audit for the last financial year, July 2009–June 2010, will be available shortly. The town continues to be in sound financial condition, but the continued decline in receipts from the county and the state present challenges. Copies of the statements will be posted on the Web site and are available from the Town Office.

Ted Pratt  
Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

## Green Again

The green this month is courtesy of Walter and Felice Kornberg of Kenilworth Avenue. We are finally catching up with them to say thank you. The money that is donated pays for the green banner at the top of the first page. We have money in the kitty for green until March 2011, so that leaves us four months greenless. If you would care to donate, send a check for \$60 (made out to the Garrett Park Citizens Association) to Box 98, and we will add you to our list. If you wish to dedicate the banner to someone or something, just let me know. Thanks in advance.

If you haven’t been getting hold of your copy, and just can’t remember to pick it up at the PO, you can subscribe for a copy to be mailed to you First Class each month. Just get in touch with Jane Salomon.

Mary Moyer

## Jobs List Update

Snow shovellers and baby sitters, call the Town Office to add your names to the list: 301-933-7488. Provide your name, age, job requested, and any special qualifications (such as courses). We will be printing the list in the next *Bugle*.

## GPNS Craft Fair

The Garrett Park Nursery School will hold its 44th annual craft fair on the weekend before Thanksgiving. Our neighbors are invited to join us for the Preview Party on Friday, November 19, from 7 to 9 pm at Town Hall. At the Preview Party, school families, alumni, and residents of Garrett Park, Garrett Park Estates, and White Flint Park will have the first opportunity to view the crafters’ work while enjoying wine, beer, and appetizers. They will also have the chance to bid on items like theater tickets, restaurant gift certificates, jewelry, and artwork at our silent auction. The craft fair, including a bake sale, will be open to the general public on Saturday, November 20, and Sunday, November 21, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:  
[www.garrettpark-md.gov](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov)

### Services for Seniors

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# Citizens Association News

*Newcomers Reception.* On October 3, the GPCA extended a welcome to new Garrett Park families. Representatives from various clubs around town joined us to give new residents an overview of what the town has to offer. Thank you to all who helped out.

## Upcoming Events

*Pumpkin Carving.* Please join us Sunday, October 24, at 1 pm on the basketball court for the annual pumpkin carving contest. Snacks and refreshments will be provided for this event. Please bring your own pumpkin and carving utensils (knives, stencils, etc.).

*Spooky Woods.* At 7 pm on Saturday, October 30, the GPCA's annual Spooky Woods will kick off in Porcupine Woods. Kids of all ages are invited to join us to share scares and laughs at this Garrett Park tradition. Little ones will be able to walk through a less scary version ahead of the

older kids. Please join us, and don't forget your flashlights.

*Garrett Park Listserv.* Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, doctors, and baby sitters). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at [groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join).

*Questions or comments for the Citizens Association?* Please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Chris Strong at [Chris.s.strong@gmail.com](mailto:Chris.s.strong@gmail.com).

## Film Society to Show *Millions*

Friday, November 12, will be another wonderful night in Garrett Park Town Hall. Come for a locally prepared dinner. As always, the prices will be more than fair, and the fare will be fabulous. And stick around, of course, to watch *Millions*, an utterly charming 2004 film directed by Danny Boyle (*Slumdog Millionaire*, *Trainspotting*...). It is a family film of limitless imagination and surprising joy, as it follows 7-year-old Damian and his 9-year-old brother Anthony as they deal with a windfall—a bag containing 265,000 British pounds that bounced off a train and into Damian's playhouse. Like other extraordinary child-centered movies, it is witty, sweet, and charming but never sappy, as it provides a child's perspective, both real and fantastic, without being condescending to the actors or the audience. These are stories with children, but adults and children alike will love the film. Indeed, *Millions* is a spiritual movie in its own way: It invests its full stock in Damian, his visions, and his outlook on the world. That's what makes things so magical, even in scenes that seem, for a moment, as though they might be going too far. We'll also be announcing

our 2011 line-up of films, so come on over and bring your calendars, too!

*Millions* will be shown at the Garrett Park Town Hall, Friday night, November 12. Dinner will be sold beginning at 7:15 pm. The film follows at 8 pm. There is no charge for members of the Film Society for the movie. Nonmembers may pay \$5 per person or \$10 per family at the door.

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# Not for Seniors Only!

Did you know... ?

- The Kensington Volunteer Fire Department has a supply of donated wheelchairs, walkers, portable toilets, shower chairs, and crutches to lend for free and for indefinite periods of time. To borrow, donate, or find out more about the Auxiliary Loan Closet, call the main office for Mike Kelley (who grew up on Kenilworth) or Sean (301-929-8000); in late afternoon or evening hours, call Sue Mallory.
- Matt Kelleher, Special Projects Facilitator for Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, came to the October 12 Lunch Bunch to eat a hearty meal and share his expertise on safety in the home. This included all aspects of fire safety (the latest smoke alarms include 10-year batteries!); placement and testing of smoke alarms; what to do if a fire breaks out in your home; ensuring that banisters are secure; learning where your electrical and water shut-off valves are; and much more. Come by the Town Office and ask Elizabeth for some of the materials he brought for our residents.
- The Town Office has "File of Life" magnetic plastic folders and inserts for you. These red 4 by 5 inch life-saving information holders belong on the refrigerator. Distributed by the Fire and Rescue Service, we're encouraged to complete them and keep them updated, since all fire and rescue service professionals are trained to look there if we're unable to speak or otherwise respond in a medical emergency.

Elizabeth Henley

## Upcoming Archives Programs

Remember, if anyone would like to be involved in preparing for upcoming archives programs, please contact Marian Green. Marian is planning three Sunday afternoon programs this winter, based on material from the Garrett Park Archives: January 23: the Great Depression in Garrett Park; February 27: how the town became a Nuclear Free Zone; and March 27: readings from the Archives.

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# GPES

The school continues to grow! More students are being registered every week, and another second grade has been added for the student body. Mr. Smith had to give up his music room in the main part of the building and move to a portable outside. We're now up to 553 as of this writing, almost the record for our student body.

For obvious reasons, there will not be a Halloween parade this year in town. The students will participate in some activity on the back playground of the school and then have their parties.

Mary Moyer



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**Mon - Sat**  
**9am-7pm**  
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## Letter from the Mayor

I want to thank Jack Mandel for serving as acting mayor in my recent absence. All members of the Town Council are working tirelessly on a variety of town issues. To list but a few: acquisition of the Community Center and developing a lease with the Nursery School, a federal railroad 'quiet zone' for the stretch of CSX main line that Garrett Park shares with Randolph Hills, and perhaps most importantly, significant issues with the town's aging infrastructure. We face key decisions about how the town will address major (read: "expensive") repair and replacement questions. Does Garrett Park's time-honored approach of minimal patch-and-repair make sense in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with a larger population and greater demands on our storm drains and roadways? If taking a more comprehensive, forward-looking approach involves greater expense, what is the best way to finance that investment in the future of the town?

In that vein, I urge you to attend the Town Council work session on October 25, at which we will hear a presentation from Chester Engineering, the town's consulting engineers, about major work that needs to be done to repair the drains, pipes, and other elements of the town's storm water management system. We hope that as many residents as possible can attend to learn about this significant capital undertaking, and to discuss with the Council possible alternatives to finance the necessary work.

I also urge all residents to check the town Web site periodically for upcoming events, meetings, and other items of interest. For example, on Sunday, November 7, at 1 pm, join the Arboretum Committee and fellow residents for the Annual Tree Walk, conducted by Phil Normandy, the town's consulting arborist and plant collection manager at Brookside Gardens, the Montgomery County botanic garden. These walks are always pleasant and informative. This year's walk will concentrate on another issue that impacts the town budget: tree removals.

As you all know by now, demolition of the old Garrett Park Elementary School is nearly complete. The project, including approval of plans for construction of the new school, was held up by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission as it made last-minute demands on the Montgomery County Schools Construction Department regarding utility easements. The town facilitated

the approval of MCPS plans by entering into agreements to grant certain easements, which also made possible the preservation of willow oaks on both sides of the 4800 block of Oxford Street, leading to GPES. For more information, see [www.garrettpark-md.gov](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov) and select "Recent Letters from the Town."

MCPS has recently supplied the following summary of the key project dates and milestones for finishing the reconstruction of GPES:

- Expect demolition of the existing old section of GPES to be cleared and completed by end of October 2010.
- Storm water management and utility work are expected to start in October 2010. Water, sewer, and permanent electrical service work will commence within approximately a month of receiving all required plan approvals and permits.
- Excavation and site grading are expected to start in November 2010.
- Building construction is scheduled to start by end of November 2010.
- Site improvements will start this fall and continue to the end of the summer of 2011.
- The project's substantial completion is expected by October 2011.
- LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) required building flush-out, to improve indoor air quality, will take place in November 2011.
- Final completion of the project is expected by early December 2011.
- Move-in activity by the school staff is expected during the last week of December 2011.
- First day of school for students is scheduled on January 3, 2012.

Finally, let me again ask all residents to drive gently in town. The days are shorter, and it is more difficult to see pedestrians, especially children, at dusk and during the evening. Walkers, please be aware that drivers may not be able to see you easily. Wear light-colored clothing and carry a flashlight. Enjoy our colorful autumn in Garrett Park!

Chris Keller